

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ADDIS 03006 131532Z

65

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

----- 032783

R 131434Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3628

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 3006

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR US ET XF

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH OSMAN SALEH SABBE OF

ELF/PLF: ADDIS COMMENTS

REF: MOGADISCIO 357

EMBASSY OFFERS FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON CONVERSATION REPORTED REFTEL:

1. VIEW FROM ADDIS SUGGESTS THAT OSMAN'S ASSESSMENT OF ELF/PLF  
MENTUM IN ERITREA, CAPACITY SUDANESE GOVERNMENT TO PRESSURE  
ETHIOPIA, AND LATTER'S DIPLOMATIC WEAKNESS IN AFRICA AND MID-EAST  
MAY BE UNDULY SANGUINE.

2. AS EMBASSY HAS REPORTED, PMAC'S UNITY-OR-DEATH POSTURE  
ON ERITREA APPEARS, AT LEAST FOR NOW, TO HAVE GAINED IT MEASURE  
OF SUPPORT THROUGHOUT NON-INSURGENT ETHIOPIA. MOREOVER, ALTHOUGH  
ETHIOPIAN FORCES STEADILY TAKING CASUALTIES IN ERITREAN FIGHTING,  
THESE FORCES SEEM TO BE MANAGING THEIR PROBLEMS TO DATE, AND  
WE SUSPECT INSURGENTS HAVING NO EASY TIME IN CONFRONTATIONS  
WITH THEM. IT STRIKES US AS NOTEWORTHY IN THIS REGARD AND LIKELY  
INDICATIVE OF THE MULTIPLE CONTRAINTS UNDER WHICH INSURGENTS ARE  
OPERATING THAT THEIR PERHAPS INTENTIONALLY SELECTIVE INTERDICTION  
EFFORT ON THE VULNERABLE MASSAWAGA, ASSAB- AND ASMARA-ADDIS ROADS  
HAVE THUS FAR FAILED TO DEPRIVE THE ETHIOPIAN FORCES OF ESSENTIALS  
(E.G. FUEL) AND THAT ETHIOPIAN MILITARY REINFORCEMENTS AND SUPPLIES

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 ADDIS 03006 131532Z

HAVE BEEN GETTING THROUGH TO UNITS IN THE NORTH (WITH WHATEVER

DIFFICULTY)

WITHSTANDING THE MILITARY HARASSMENT ACTIONS OF THE INSURGENTS. WE ALSO NOTE THAT, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, NO SIGNIFICANT ETHIOPIAN GARRISONS (E.G. KEREN, NAKFA) HAVE YET BEEN OVERSHELVED, ALTHOUGH OUTPOSTS HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN AS THE TACTICAL SITUATION REQUIREDY

3. INsofar AS SUDANESE LEVERAGE IS CONCERNED, IT CERTAINLY IS SIGNIFICANT. BUT IT HAS LIMITS. BEYOND THESE LIE THE POSSIBILITY OF EPMG COUNTERPRESSURES ON SOUTH SUDAN, OAU CONSTRAINTS AND PRESUMABLY DOMESTIC SUDANESE POLITICAL LIMITATIONS ON WHICH EMBASSY KHARTOUM BETTER ABLE COMMENT THAN WE.

4. MID-EAST SUPPORT FOR ERITREAN INSURGENCY, LET ALONE FACTION THEREOF, IS EQUALLY CONTINGENT AND TO A DEGREE MITIGATED BY CONFLICTING INTERESTS OF ACTIVIST POWERS. IN OTHER WORDS, IT IS NOT IN FAISAL'S OR SADAT'S INTEREST TO ALLOW THE DEVELOPMENT OF A BA'ATHI CLIENT STATE IN ERITREA. MOREOVER, ETHIOPIA NOT DEVOID OF LEVERAGE IN THIS ARENA, AND WE SUSPECT THAT SUCH LEVERAGE (E.G. WELFARE AND ECONOMIC REMITTANCES OF LARGE YEMENI COMMUNITY IN ETHIOPIA) RATHER THAN THE DUBIOUS IMPERATIVES OF A SHARED "SOCIALISM" LIKELY AT ROOT OF PDRY'USALLEGED SUDDEN RELUCTANCE TO PERMIT THE CONTINUED FLOW OF ARMS TO PLF.

5. IN OAU ARENA, EPMG'S LINE IS ALREADY CLEAR; CONTINUED ARAB SUPPORT FOR ERITREAN INSURGENCY SEEKING DISMEMBER OAU-MEMBER STATE IS ARAB ATTACK ON AFRICA TO WHICH AFRICA CANNOT REMAIN INDIFFERENT. WE AGREE WITH MOGADISCIO IN JUDGING THIS LINE TO HAVE CONSIDERABLE POTENTIAL FOR ETHIOPIAN COUNTERPRESSURE IN CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

WYMAN

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LIBERATION FRONTS, MEETINGS, COMBAT OPERATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975ADDIS03006  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750088-0766  
**From:** ADDIS ABABA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750356/aaaabxyn.tel  
**Line Count:** 92  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 75 MOGADISCIO 357  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25 AUG 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <25 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <26 AUG 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CONVERSATION WITH OSMAN SALEH SABBE OF ELF/PLF: ADDIS COMMENTS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, US, ET, XF, ELF, PLF, (OSMAN SALEH SABBE)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006